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July 14, 1983

The Honorable Augustus F. Hawkins
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
H326 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to urge you to hold hearings as soon as possible on H. Res. 160, the resolution we introduced to provide for accelerated release of the documents of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Other original sponsors were Harold Ford, Harold Sawyer, and Walter Fauntroy, all former members of the committee like ourselves.

It is our conviction that this is a noncontroversial matter. Over 95% of the Warren Commission records have been released without endangering the enforcement of federal law or jeopardizing individuals. Our resolution adopts the same guidelines used for releasing the Warren Commission documents with additional safeguards to cover materials from executive sessions. We have no doubt that the records could be processed and released in an efficient, professional manner by archivists at the National Archives who have experience with the Warren Commission documents.

In essence, this is a question of the public's right to know - about the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. King, and about the procedures of the House investigation. It is now twenty years since the death of President Kennedy. We feel that it is only proper that the House place itself firmly on the side of open government.

Sincerely,



Stewart B. McKinney, M.C.



Bob Edgar, M.C.